

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District
of Blandford,

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Blandford Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1925, which includes a brief retrospect of the last five years.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	.....	.....	61825
Population (Census 1921)	.....	.....	8138
Do. (Estimated 1925)	.....	.....	8034
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	.....	.....	2133
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	.....	.....	2160
Rateable Value	.....	.....	£65552
Sum represented by a penny rate	.....	.....	£192

Number of persons receiving Relief on 31/12/25—

In Institutions	.....	53
In County Asylums	.....	22
Out-door Relief	.....	175
		— 250

Amount of Poor Law Relief—

Relief to Persons in Institutions	.....	£2458
Out-door Relief	.....	£3369
Maintenance of Lunatics in Asylums	.....	£1541

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

			Total	M.	F.	
Births	{	Legitimate	..... 124	71	53	} Birth Rate 16'43
		Illegitimate	..... 8	4	4	
Deaths			..... 112	51	61	Death Rate 13'94

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :

From sepsis 3 ; from other causes 0.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births 45'45

Legitimate 5 ; illegitimate 1 ; total 6

Deaths from measles (all ages) 0

„ whooping cough (all ages) 0

„ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Scarlet fever	3	2	0
Enteric fever	1	1	0
Puerperal fever	0	0	3
Pneumonia	9	0	6

Tuberculosis.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0				
1	0	0	0	0				
5	0	0	0	0				
10	1	0	0	0				
15	0	0	1	0				
20	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
25	1	1	0	0				
35	0	0	0	0				
45	1	1	0	0				
55	1	1	0	0				
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0				
Totals	4	4	1	0	0	1	2	0

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, no cases.

Encephalitis Lethargica, 2 cases, 2 deaths.

Erysipelas, 2 cases, both admitted to hospital.

4.—SPECIAL CAUSES OF SICKNESS AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Apart from an epidemic of measles in the autumn, there was no unusual illness in 1925.

During 1920—1925, no severe epidemics of notifiable diseases have invaded the district. Such outbreaks as have occurred have been controlled without difficulty by removal of the patients to the isolation hospital, disinfection, and closure of schools when necessary. No case of smallpox has occurred and this is fortunate as no preparations have been made to deal with such a contingency.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, &c.

NURSING.

The County Nursing Association provides five District Nurses who are also Health Visitors. Their salaries are paid largely from local subscriptions and partly by grants from the County Council and Ministry of Health.

12 qualified Midwives, including the above District Nurses, notified their intention of practising in the district during 1925.

The Blandford Infant Welfare Centre meets twice a month. The attendance has been better than ever—419 attendances and 78 babies on the register.

HOSPITALS.

The Blandford Cottage Hospital, with 12 beds, provides general medical and surgical treatment for most cases requiring admission to hospital. The number of patients admitted during the year, 1924, has only once been exceeded.

The Isolation Hospital has 24 beds. It has done good work during the year and its accommodation has not been overstrained.

Two motor ambulances are available in Blandford, one for infectious and the other for non-infectious cases.

There is no smallpox hospital.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Specimens are sent away when laboratory examinations are needed, usually to the Clinical Research Institute.

7.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

There has been no great change in these during the last five years.

Water Supply is mostly from wells and is sufficient and of good quality.

Rivers and Streams. No dangerous pollution of these has come to notice.

Sewage. Pail privies are the usual arrangement, the contents being buried by the occupiers in their own gardens.

Schools. The sanitary condition and water supply of these is on the whole satisfactory. A few defects have come to notice in the last five years and have mostly been remedied.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT.

Number of inspections	148		
Number of informal notices	10	Number complied with	10
Number of statutory notices	1	"	"

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Number of dairymen, cow-keepers and milk sellers on register	-	103
Number of cowsheds in district	127	Number inspected
Total number of inspections	27	-
Number of notices served	0	27

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are no public slaughter-houses.

Number of private slaughter-houses in use.

	1920.	January, 1925.	December, 1925.
Registered	7	9	9
Licensed	0	0	0

Number inspected in 1925	.....	.....	2
Total number of Inspections	.....	.....	24
Number of notices served	.....	.....	0
Number of inspections of meat made under the 1924 meat regulations			71

DISINFECTION.

There is a steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital which is freely used. All houses in which infectious disease has been notified have been disinfected. Verminous persons and their belongings when necessary are sent to the Isolation Hospital to be cleansed and disinfected.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Samples of the following articles were analysed and none were found adulterated—
Arrowroot, Lard, Milk (4 samples), Beer, Butter, Cider, Cocoa, Ginger, Rice, Tinned Salmon, Suet, and Whiskey.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Council employs a part time Medical Officer of Health, who holds the Diploma of Public Health of Oxford University, and a whole time Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, and a Veterinary Surgeon as Inspector of Meat.

9.—HOUSING.

General Conditions. There is a shortage of houses, but the problem is not acute in this Rural Area. Complaints are much more numerous as regards the quality of houses, dilapidations and neglect of repairs. Overcrowding is not prevalent.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total	.....	13
(b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts :		
(1) By the Local Authority	.....	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	.....	7

Unfit dwelling houses :

Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.....	12
Number inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations		0
Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	2
Number, excluding those under last para, found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	4

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers		2
Action under statutory powers	Nil.	

10.—FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

12 inspections of workplaces were made during the year, and no defects needing special action were found.

11.—GENERAL.

No important changes in the Sanitary arrangements of the district have taken place in the last five years. One improvement may be noted and that is the provision of district nurses for all parts.

The population shows a steady tendency to decline. The birth rate for 1925 is the lowest recorded for many years. The death rate remains about stationary. The general health is good.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. BODLEY SCOTT, M.D., D.P.H.,

Coupar House,

BLANDFORD,

April 17th, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.